(a) whether it is a fact that heavily armed Pakistani militants, who recently shot dead 36 members of Sikh community in Chattisinghpura in J&K State, belonged to Lakshker-e-Toiba and Hizbul Mujahideen militant out-fits;

(b) if so, what action Government have taken so far against those who are involved in this massacre;

(c) whether J&K Government has been able to instil confidence as well as to ensure safety to remaining Sikh minorities; and

(d) whether any compensation has so far been given to family members of those who laid down their lives in Chattisinghpura ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI CH. VIDYA SAGAR RAO) : (a) Yes Sir.

(b) and (c) Security forces immediately launched operations to apprehend the terrorists involved in the massacre. A local resident of Chattisinghpura was arrested for participating in the carnage, and the security forces conducted raids on terrorist hideouts resulting in the killing of a number of terrorists, alleged to have participated in the incident. The security forces have already strengthened the security arrangements in the Sikh inhabited villages in the valley by *interalia* providing security pickets. It has also been decided to set up village defence committees in such Sikh villages, where sufficient volunteers are available.

(d) Relief assistance is provided by the State Government to the families of those killed in terrorists action in accordance with the norms fixed by them.

Observation of US Based Human Rights Agency on Atrocities

2807. SHRI SANTOSH BAGRODIA : Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that one of the leading US based human rights agency in its annual report mentioned the growing atrocities against the minorities and lower caste people after the present Government was installed in 1996 and 1998 at the Centre;

(b) if so, how it would be checked; and

(c) what concrete steps are taken to stop such activities completely?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI CH. VIDYASAGAR RAO) : (a) to (c) The Union Government is not aware of any such report prepared by any leading US based human rights agency.

Misuse of Jails

2808. SHRI SANTOSH BAGRODIA : Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state :

(a) whether jails in some parts of the country are being misused with the help of officials where mentally retarded people are remanded by their relatives; and

(b) if so, what steps are being taken to stop such immoral practices involving police?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI I.D. SWAMI) : (a) and (b) 'Prisons' is a State subject as per the Constitution of India. As such, prison management is primarily the responsibility of the State Governments. However, to improve the functioning of jails, the Central Government has been sending advisories to the State Governments from time to time. Complaints received by the Central Government about mal-functioning of jails are forwarded to the concerned State Governments for appropriate action. No complaint about the misuse of jails, as referred to in the question, appears to have been received here in the recent past.

Crime Rate in Delhi

2809. SHRI SANTOSH BAGRODIA : Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state :

(a) whether Delhi, the capital city of the country is the most unsafe city in the country so far as crime rate is concerned;

(b) if so, what measures are being taken to make it a crime free city; and

(c) what steps are being taken to check the growing rate of crime in States like Rajasthan ?